

BAILA-BATONGA MISSION

Of the Primitive Methodist Missionary Society

KASENGA

VIA KALOMO

N. RHODESIA.

REV. J. W. PRICE.  
REV. H. S. GERRARD, M.B.

then. Have you his photo? Two minutes' study of his face should tell the difficulties he has to fight with himself. I had only a few minutes chat with his girl, but she struck me as of a temperament to balance his. He is a man of strong affections probably, and he has real capacity in some directions. Get him settled and I think he should do good work. Just now he is working finely, and happily, and the experience he has had may serve him well, for I haven't minced matters with him at all.

It is a pity the application for Curry's full salary was made. I'm bound to say I agree with what was suggested, but after Curry's promise his super should have let it stand at that. If I had my way I'd cut down the probation out here to two years, let the young fellow have costs of meeting his bride at the Falls or Buluwayo, and bring them both back to the field for another three years - or something of this sort.

I'm awfully sorry to hear Mrs Hirst has lost her mother, and also for Mrs Crabtree. Many of our men and women in Rhodesia have lost their mothers while out here, and know what it means. I remember the dear old lady very well, especially on the night when I was led to drop that bomb-shell into the middle of Crabtree's table that broke up his life and led him to a bigger. God bless them all. How proud she must have been of some, at least, of her children, *those I know*. The new year will be on us by the time you get this. May it be a very happy and successful one. Somehow I shall be glad to see this one out,

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for in some ways it has seemed peculiarly trying. I don't sleep too well, and Mrs Price's balance is too easily upset. She has never been ideally robust for life out here. Also we are getting on. I shall be on trek shortly through the wet and the mud. I can cover the ground with any of the men, but -. On three days, just after I got back here, I walked, through wet and mud, approximately 27 miles

1st day 27 miles  
2nd day all morning holding school, service, examining school etc hard at it all morning, then through the wet 20 miles.

3rd day 30 miles, most of it across the flooding flats, practically without lunch because there was nowhere to get it.

Enough. The best. Warmest regards

Aye yours

J. W. Price

N.B. My reference to matters getting out of the office and coming back garbled did not concern present regime. I think the man who took out the particulars I mean came to them from outside - it's an astounding sort of thing. Also I think you will agree that the men must feel able to write privately under stress.

Gerrard tells me he and Shaw have seen my letter about Bowdler, and that he is writing B. I hope if he does he will be wise. I would have preferred

he hadn't been told, more than was necessary. *the they want*  
blat. I'm thinking of the boy. *still - it's all right.*



February 10th.

1926.

Rev. J.W. Price.

Kasenga.

P.O. Namwala,

N. Rhodesia.

My dear Mr Price.

I enclose herewith the financial statement and am sending the balance to Livingstone as you give no other instructions in your last letter. We went through Allison's accounts and the statement, is as were presented to you; we paid in £141. 5. 4. and in this case if he is satisfied I have no doubt you will be.

I greatly appreciated your letter and especially the matter of the half-caste boy whose case may well become historical. I am glad to know that in his case he has inherited a good deal of the virtues. It seems to me that in this case you have taken a big step forward and I hope that if any appeal comes up your judge's decision will be upheld. The more I think of this race problem the more I am driven towards the conclusion of Frank Lenwood, the late L.M.S. Secretary, that in the ultimate we shall have to decide that if a man is fit to be my brother in Christ he is fit also to be my brother in law. I do not see how finally we can get away from this but that little ripple at Balmoral was suggestive and prerogative. I hope Leonard will make good in every way.

Thank you for your message concerning Mr Bowdler and from what you say and from his own letter I judge he is settling down and finding the work more congenial; I hope he will make good. As to the two men at our disposal at the time he seemed to be the

2.

more likely for your field. I consulted Gerrard and Shaw as I knew the one had been consulted by him and that the other knew the facts of the case and one did not know how things would turn out. In reference to your position in relation to probation, it is rather interesting to find that one of the Nigerian men has just been pressing the other side and urging that all the men should serve a full probation. I expect I shall hear from Mr Bowdler and I shall do what I can to meet his case.

Thank you for your word in relation to My Wife's Mother. She was a fine type and greatly impressed me when I was a youth and has always been a great help. It was a shock to us all but if we had had the arranging ourselves we could not have arranged things better if we were to loose her.

I hope that you are feeling better and getting more sleep and that Mrs Price also keeps better. I can appreciate the difficulty of your journeyings that for me would be most difficult as walking has never been a strong point in my case. I hope the New Year, will, as you say, bring greater joy and success.

I have been very sorry to learn of the illness of Mrs Slater but hope that now she is well on the way to recovery; for both of them it has been very trying.

With our cordial greeting and united kindest regards.

Yours most sincerely.

Thank you for your message concerning Mr Bowdler and how what you say and from his own letter I judge he is settling down and finding the work more congenial; I hope he will make good. As to the two men at our disposal at the time he seemed to be the



KASENGA,

KALOMO,

Mon 12/26

N. RHODESIA.

Dear Mr Hirst

Thank you for your letter to hand; it is a real pleasure to get a lengthy brotherly letter from you occasionally.

On the half-castes I am glad you agree with me; and I think you will agree with me still further. It hurts me badly to know of them growing up under native village conditions, and we have five of them here. There are two of them in my study as I write, privileged a bit, with a bit of fire because of the extraordinarily cold wet weather we are just now having. One is a pretty child of six, French-looking and dainty - her granny is French. The other has a big square head - her father is Dutch - Scotch (Grandfather old Walker, the Scotch pioneer after whom Walker's Drift (Sijobas) was named) - dour, dare-devil, hunter and catcher of big game as well as farmer. To my distress I found that Dale had left a boy, begotten after he got back from the war, when Smith and I were both from the field. The lad is very like his father. Another boy, father a passer-by, perhaps, in the old days, will be one of Fell's best boys for next three years after August. The first two are girls. Years ago I found <sup>another girl</sup> one <sup>head</sup> in Kakobelo's village, and was horrified to find that the old chief, then slowly dying of syphilis, was thinking of making her his 25th, or so, wife. A young Gov official who happened to call at Nanzela shortly afterwards burst out when I told him of her. "God knows", he said, "I'm no saint myself, but this is awful". The child would be about ten. She was turned over to Smith, and died at Nambala, a sweet, winsome clever child. Four of these six are children of Public School type of man, <sup>London</sup> officials. I'm thinking of asking Gov officials to help foot the

bill for the further education of children of deceased Gov officials who have the character to benefit by it.

(By the way, there is another child just now in my study. He is five months old, and was brought to my wife by the Mala folk after his mother died - he was ten days old at the time. poor little kid had inherited syphilis, but I think Mrs Price is getting top side of it. He is small, but sharp enough. He is probably the best mala evangelist we have, being the first Mala baby to be brought to live here; one can get a big audience of Mala women any day to watch him empty his bottle.)

The thing you will note about our half-castes is the quality of the stock on the father's side. These children are not ordinary.

Leonard very much wants to go to Lovedale. He could raise the £20 necessary (all included) for the first year himself nearly, from his few head of cattle. Will Siddall would help <sup>generously</sup> ~~generally~~ if I asked him - which I don't feel like doing - I could help a bit myself, and many another would but need to have the matter mentioned to him. If any friend on the Executive would like to lend a hand! Leonard topped the generality of boys at Kafue by a standard; his English is ahead of that of others, because of his close fellowship with Mrs Price in early days and later. Well thinks very highly of him, had him in his office (he never tells tales), and would like to have had him back. When Leonard was ordained at Kanchindu Synod as a teacher, Shaw wrote me: "Everything you have done for this boy has been well worth while." I have dreamed of his becoming our first native ordained minister, and I should say he is quite the best teacher Kasenga has. If he did go to Lovedale, and returned here, he might be most valuable as a school master or minister.



KASENGA,

KALOMO,

for he gets on well with white as well as black, and has <sup>N. RHODESIA</sup> qualities, such as a sense of beauty and a great kindness for dumb animals, not usually pronounced in natives just emerging from heathenism.

You have not known of this side of Mrs Price; Mrs Gerrard is equally eager and they work well together, but it has happened that the latter's work with native babies has been more pronounced than with half-castes. She has been a splendid mother to some poor bereaved children who might otherwise have died.

Mrs Price at the moment has a five months old native bairn, who was brought here when about ten days old, after his mother died. poor little kid had inherited syphilis; but he seems to be getting top side of it now.

I am not sure how to interpret that phrase of Lenwood's. I am for avoiding the mixture of the races as far as possible, but I am for the deeper moralities every time. Injustice and ostracism are the devil, and I am determined to accept a man for his character and ability, and not his colour. This tho white men, because whites are so few here, come to my house sometimes, whose lives are pig-dirty ( I told one that if I had to deal with him I'd put him over the border) I know it, but it isn't always necessary to tell Mrs Price all I know.

All regards

Aye yours

J. L. Bruce.

REV. J. W. PRICE  
REV. H. S. GERRARD, M.B.

BAILA-BATONGA MISSION  
Of the Primitive Methodist Missionary Society

KASENGA

Mch 10/26

via KALOMO

N. RHODESIA.

Dear Mr Hirst

I ought to have mentioned the following matters of finance in my report.

The hymn books are to hand, and Mr Fell has sent on Kasenga's share of them, and a bill for £33 odd. They, of course, are simply stock to be sold, but they are charged to education and swell that amount for the the quarter. Then I had to pay Bowdler's expenses here 6/3/8, and £4 on transport of bell. Then on medical a/c. My mate has made out his own orders, tho I've checked them. He is £22 above Dr Gerrard's estimate - not my estimate - for the year. All which means that in gross expenditure I'm near my estimate; in net expend, of course, I'm considerably below it.

*Jones*  
*J. W. O.*



BAILA-BATONGA MISSION

Of the Primitive Methodist Missionary Society

REV. J. W. PRICE.

REV. H. S. GERRARD, M.B.

KASENGA

Mch 15/26

VIA KALOMO

N. RHODESIA.

Dear Mr Hirst

Some of our men are evidently  
out of report forms, and I don't know  
whether they previously got them through  
Fin Sec or not, and whether or not he had  
to ask you for them. You might send each  
station a few anyhow.

Price.

You ask about Bowdler, and I feel very diffident at replying; but I think you should have a picture of the lad as I see him, especially in view of the determination I've come to get him moved on immediately after Synod. I simply can not afford to have him here any longer; he is too much of a burden. Apart from an odd word to Slater I haven't written other men, in the field or at home (bar a line in reply to Gerrard) about him, but I know the position of the other men well enough.

None but Lyon will care to have him for a colleague, and he knows only the warm emotional side of him. My urge is that you cable Slater somewhat as follows: "Agreeable Bowdler return home immediately; reserving English circuit." Bowdler has begged me to try to get him home this year, since the death of his prospective mother-in-law. He won't be needed in the field, and his salary is just thrown away on the work he can do and is willing to do. I will gladly run Kasenga myself till the doc gets out.

Now if you take this course everything can be done smoothly, and nothing need be explained to members of Synod, and wives, who are in the habit of writing home more than they should or is quite accurate. I don't want this lad's future ministry prejudiced, but I simply won't have him here a moment longer than I can help. Miss Jeffre's similar affair of last term helped to smash my wife, and <sup>any</sup> recurrence will end my ministry here quick.

The trouble with Miss J, so far as I was concerned, was that I tried to save her from foolish love-making with traders, and dearly has she paid for her silliness. She was an excellent worker with me; but, like this lad, she was passionate in temper if crossed, and then talked very inaccurately. They are strangely alike in some things.

Now this lad has a very kindly side to him, extremely emotional, and at the same time a good deal of neatness, order, and some measure of judgment in certain directions - till you cross the emotional in him. On some home circuits he should do excellently; but he's a misfit for here. The sensible thing is to face the consequences of the mis-take. I am fully prepared myself to move that Synod take action into its own hands, on plain straight lines, and face any music with the Committee; but quiet action from your end would be far better.

I must draw a picture or two of him for you, on the clear understanding that they are for your own eye alone, and that I am quite sure this same lack of balance came out at the very first quarterly meeting.



prepared to have my findings turned down if you feel so, without the slightest resentment on my side.

B. Has been with me about seven months, and he's the queerest make-up in many ways I've ever struck. You never know which day he'll fall on your neck and kiss you (literally), or insult you if you go near him. He began with insult. The magistrate's wife was here when he arrived last August; and long afterwards we learned from him that she had laughingly let fall a remark he interpreted as meaning that we were opposed to his early marriage. Hence the exhibition he made of himself in front of everybody.

I should say that his work on the station, including medical but apart from his one tour, has cost him  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 hours daily on the average, without push. (The hospital orderly does practically all the actual work of bandaging) The rest of his time he spends in his study, and all I get is hints of his working for some hypothetical arts degree. "Oh, damn the degree men", I blurted one day, irritated beyond patience. He sulked for a week or two, then on an imaginary provocation about one of his boys who had been complaining to me, he burst into a storm of temper in front of my wife, and then told me that the reason why he had not been near me, and so had been neglecting his work, was that I had damned degree men, who were his dear friends and had made him what he was. (May the powers forgive the degree men) But this to me, with a special reference to Dr peaks - my Church here along with Geo Bennett.

You know how I wrote about his marriage. By the time your word came he seemed to have grown cool about it, now that he thought permission would be granted. His new stunt was that he would be a spare man when the doc returned, and he thought it would be an excellent thing, that I could secure for him if I would, if he had Synod's permission to spend those months - say a year - in S.A. studying for that degree. (Not African subjects mark you) This was no laughing venture, but downright serious, and when I laughed at it he looked daggers. I judge that four-fifths of his time here (so far as one can penetrate behind his extraordinary natural secretiveness) he is using for a purpose like that. Of course it means that I have to carry five-sixths of the station.

This same lack of balance came out at the very first quarterly meeting.

He grumbled and sulked because I insisted on his attending full sessions. They quickly finished Q.M.s at Namantombwa, he could use his time better, and especially he had to write to his girl.

After one big burst I urged him to stop trying to be the man he couldn't be, and be the very fine man he could be. He agreed, promised and promised, but the effect only lasted till steam gathered again.

You can't teach him, and he's choc a bloc with conceit. From his attitude over medical matters you would think him a F.R.<sup>C</sup> etc etc. He will certainly lecture on browning when he gets home, he told me, and he hadn't heard of Sordello. As early as last Synod I took him aside for a bit time with the language; he spent the time pointing out Smith's mistakes. When he came here he had, he quite clearly said, exhausted himself putting Namantombwa to rights; when, a month later, I left him for a fortnight, he changed the whole round of the station's activities. He changed school sessions, he made the boys put windows and doors of a building on opposite side to that I had instructed him and them, in spite of their protest; and finally he hauled a batch of boys, several of them Kafue candidates this year, off to the Camp for fighting. - a thing I had never done in my life. He thinks we should have a policeman, and that a policeman should accompany us on our travels - the people are so amenable to the authority of the LAW!

I have scarcely, if ever, asked him to do a job that he hasn't either argued for the postponement of, or done contrary to instructions, and he never by any chance goes looking for work. Anything he does, <sup>has medical</sup> he seems to look on as a favour to me, but he expects to be coddled and nursed, loved and honoured, and have everything placed to his hand.

Now don't make any mistake about this. He wanted to come here, and he wants to finish his time here. The whole trouble is his mental attitude. It isn't a thing that has grown on him through strained relations; he came with it. Kerswell's word was "If you love me have him moved on". I sympathised at the time with the boy, but three parts of that has gone by the board. I wouldn't have him staying with me, as Kerswell had, for £10 a week. If anything he's a bit better than when he came, likely because I told him plainly that if we had any more of his outbursts I'd hand him the amount of his fare, send him home, and explain to you. But this has its disad-



advantages. The alternative to a real burst seems to be constant irritation. I feel very confident in replying, but I

This very day he went to the dispensary at about a quarter to nine, by which time the orderly would have practically finished, if not wholly, the cases. That is his work for the day; and it isn't that he hasn't work I've asked him to do. That has been his work, apart from three days Q.M., for the last two months, bar about three hours one day at the shop. On some pretext or other he manages to dodge nearly everything. His claim from the first was that his mornings should be spent in study; yet as far as the language, judged by his preaching, and his knowledge of things African, are concerned, Gerrard, whom I had to examine, was far ahead of him at the end of his first six months, altho he had a station on his hands.

I do earnestly urge that unfit men should be quietly returned home. In reply it may be urged that it was I alone who fought Buckley's case. I did; but because of the way in which the thing was done, especially considering Buckley's years of service, and the way he had had to stick it in the wall one. The thing meant utter and open disgrace for him. Cases like Bowdler you can quietly work if you will. A man like yourself doesn't need to be too prolific in explanations even to the Executive.

I don't want to send this lad home under a cloud, and he himself need know nothing if you act on your own initiative. He hasn't been in my study for a fortnight, or enquired about any work, tho it's the year end and I'm deluged with reports and the like. But I expect him in any moment, with a hurt expression on his face because I haven't replied to one or two silly notes of his. I'm just waiting to see how long he'll carry on. We shall have to coddle him till he leaves. But do take this child ( for that is largely what he is) home, and send a man.

On the question of marriage I am still where I was. Take this lad. At Namantombwa he evidently considered he should attend all confinement cases, altho here the Dr attends only when called. He informed us he had had to do such things that his people at home were wondering if he could have kept himself pure. We began to do the same kind of thing here, but I quickly told him that if an examination of women expecting children was necessary Mrs Price, who had had midwifery training, would do it, and he must send them to her or call her.

50869999999999

Now burn this.

April 29th.  
1926.

Rev. J.W. Price.  
Kasenga.  
Namwala.  
Via Livingstone.  
N. Rhodesia.  
S.C.Africa.

Dear Mr. Price.

I enclose the resolution about Kasenga, and thank you for your report and appreciate highly the gift of £40 by Mrs Price and yourself to our work. I observed the confidence you wished in relation to the matter apart from a broad hint which I thought should be given.

Your report was full of interest and I read it with delight and appreciation. I will try to write more fully in relation to it later.

I put the case of Mr Bowdler's before the Committee with his application for an early return and the Committee agreed to his return at once in view of the changed relationships in his home affairs and the fact that the stations will be fully staffed when the men get back from furlough. We are reserving for him an English Station and I think it will be possible to get him on a station in the north which will be congenial - probably in Yorkshire. I sent you a cable and should be glad if you would arrange subject to the decision of the Synod the date of Mr Bowdler's return and then cable to me at once so that we may arrange the stationing.

Hope Mrs Price and yourself are well. Excuse me as I want to get this off.

Yours most sincerely.



13 JUL 1926

BAILA-BATONGA MISSION

Of the Primitive Methodist Missionary Society

KASENGA

REV. J. W. PRICE,

REV. H. S. GERRARD, M.B.

VIA KALOMO

N. RHODESIA.

June 7/26

Dear Mr. Hirst

My report has lengthened itself out unconscionably. No matter, for I don't suppose it will be read in committee, and I don't think you yourself want anything sort of a fairly complete picture.

Also bare facts don't tell everything, just figures and little else.

I discovered at the end, that I hadn't mentioned Mr. Bowdler.

Perhaps it's as well. He hasn't worked here, and he'll be lucky if

ever again he has so easy a time. I regret his going not at all, very

much less than I did Miss Jeffries!

You will note that I have put down to the station £30 of his salary.

I advanced him £55 for his expenses home. This I am deducting from

balance to be passed over from this quarter.

I think the lad should do good work in some situations, but he has

missed here, and I'm grateful to you for acting in the matter. Of

course I know he's written you himself. He's a secretive chap, sus-

picious, and with a knack of vaguely suggesting things you can't get at

Some silly ass seems to have set a report going some time ago

that we were getting rid of him, and our Assistant Magistrate, always

at it and at the time ill here, started teasing him about it.

Now that report certainly has not sprung from here. Both here and I

had a little chat with the Nanzela men some months ago, when I

told them to arrange an exchange; but apart from them the only

person I've discussed him with at all is yourself, and just a para-

graph in reply to a letter from him after you had shown him

think also of it.

mine. Of course B may have been confiding in somebody himself, tho the direction from which the report came to our A.M. seemed to point to B's late super.

However, he's gone, and I sincerely wish the lad well.

You will be glad to see our membership up 50 %. We seem rapidly to be walking to the front, tho goodness knows the front isn't very far ahead. I think myself this will be our leading station, and that already it is in some measure recognised as such. We havn't the years

of the others, and the Paila were long in moving. We now have four schools in Bwila, three of them, at least, doing very good work.

But only Makunku has catechumens.

*Some Pamburu boys were baptized*

My great joy is my men. They are limited, yet to me they are great, and the station is a very happy one. The old begging-grumbling spirit I hear complained of elsewhere is almost absent here. I think they know I will do my best for them. The doc also gets on very well with the people.

Good-night, I'll be to bed, for it is nearly mid-night. Truth to tell

I don't sleep too well since last term.

this will be our last term here. At present I have no definite guidance,

only a feeling that we should get on with the job. I must push

on with Psalms. Gerrard drew my attention to the note that has appeared

in some papers about himself and Samuel Shaw having done Samuel.

He says: See the result of your keenness to acknowledge the little

we did of revision or something to that effect. These things are

a bit annoying, I'm bound to say. A man works for years at a job,

and then some fool bletherer in the papers goes while pretending to

think so much of it, appreciates it so little he coolly robs you of

your deserved well done. It's rather abominable, and some men would think alot of it.



BAILA-BATONGA MISSION

Of the Primitive Methodist Missionary Society

KASENGA

REV. J. W. PRICE,

REV. H. S. GERRARD, M.B.

VIA KALOMO

As to our return to the field again - I say I don't ~~know~~ <sup>know</sup> ~~whether~~ <sup>you see</sup>

however many years one has given to the work one must still do one's share of tramping in the wet. Then Mrs Price feels the isolation no less than she did, and the chances of nasty breakdown increase as one gets older. Roads and cars would make an enormous difference to the outlook in the case of the older men. And the older men are necessary. If four men dropped out of this field grip of the work would slacken enormously.

Of course I don't forget that sometimes a man once good may be no longer worth his place. Once I really feel that such is my case I shall resign at once.

Well, the best to you and yours. I haven't heard from Crabtree lately. He will be a great fellow for the consummation of Methodist union down south.

I hear the Presbyterians have gone into Livingstone. With Methodist Union we ought to have been there, but I'm not sure we haven't now thrown away the opportunity.

Your financial statement, by the way, is not to hand yet. Are you still sticking to the address at the head of this paper? I told you some time ago that it often means the holding up of the letter a week at Livingstone. Kasenga

P.O. Namwala

via Livingstone

is the address nowadays. Must have a look at your envelope when it arrives.

United regards to you and Mrs Hirst.

Yours sincerely

J. W. Price.

BAILA-BATONGA MISSION

Of the Primitive Methodist Missionary Society

KASENGA

Lulu I have a letter from Gerard. He has  
got the impression from you that I want you  
an ultimatum about Rowdell, I say you  
would rather lose the than lose me. Oh, my  
hat! But the fellow I think impression

outlook in the case of the older men. And the older men are necessary.  
If four men dropped out of this field trip of the work would slacken  
enormously. Of course I don't forget that sometimes  
a man once good may be no longer worth his place. Once I really feel  
that such is my case I shall resign at once.  
Well, the best to you and yours. I haven't heard from Graptree lately.  
He will be a great fellow for the consummation of Methodist Union  
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I hear the Presbyterians have gone into Livingstonia. With Methodist  
Union we ought to have been there, but I'm not sure we haven't now  
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Your financial statement, by the way, is not to hand yet. Are you  
still sticking to the address at the head of this paper? I told you  
some time ago that it often means the holding up of the letter a week  
at Livingstonia. Kasenga

P.O. Mwanza

via Livingstonia

is the address nowadays. Must have a look at your envelope when it  
arrives. United regards to you and Mrs. Hirst.

Yours sincerely

P. W. Jones



11 OCT 1926

Kasenga

Namwala

via Livingstone

Sept 8/26

Dear Mr Hirst

I enclose reports, which speak for themselves. Some difficulties felt elsewhere are not troubling us - the tone of the men is good and keen, and we pull well together. The work widens, mainly through use of natives. It seems only fair to say that we are doing some things here not generally done, but which all would like to do.

I feared postponement of Synod would put you about; it happens that I was the one man who at all opposed it. The vote to postpone our Synod host took by letter.

I can't say I like the block grant system, not yet, for this field. My reasons lie in certain things of which you have some knowledge. I am asking Groves to tell me Nigeria's way of running finance. I'm afraid a Synod earlier than May simply cannot be done. Is it possible for you to alter your financial year to suit the necessities of the field? I may also point out that if Synod is held next May that will preclude some of us from attending the General Conference. I haven't attended one since the first, in 1914, which I organized as a secretary. I am not quite clear about this consultative committee you suggest, or when it is to meet.

I have already suggested to Slater that estimates might be dealt with at beginning of Synod, instead of towards the end - last thing on the program they were, I believe. Yes they were. Then that they might be typed out at once, and copies sent to railway by special runners waiting. The time allowed for this last Synod didn't permit of that, and our party from this way arrived a day late owing to Zambesi men. Last year another section was a day late. Such a field this is.

I don't usually advocate wild schemes, the sometimes they are a bit ahead of most folks thinking. E.G. Curry, an expert flying man, considers use of a plane quite possible now. On the matter of cars I do but beg a little consideration for a man like Stamp who is pioneering the matter. My regard for precedent is small, especially in circumstances so disparate as ours here and anywhere else in P.M. There are no "parallels" in P.M. to what we have here. But again, as usual there's a bit more at the back of my mind than appears on the surface. When I first advocated two-men stations I never visualized three central stations in Bwila, still less four, for I don't forget the sparseness of our population in thinking of distances. One central station was my idea, at Kasenga, and after all these years I remain just there. One central station, with a much higher standard of work than is possible now, with wide-flung out-stations to confine and beyond of our present area and two of the best men constantly supervising them. Four men for the lot and a fifth on furlough. Sub-station centres in charge of the best natives. One Zambesi centre of similar character. Kafue to lift its standards for the more advanced boys we should send there on these lines. Wider and wider use of natives all round. So runs my thought, so it has for years, and towards that I look, waiting till a few more fellows see the thing as I do. X

The present Bwila area has six men, and to meet further expansion requires two more. Then it's the central station

and the gift of one for myself. But I hate this waste, and it's the C.M.C. that stands to lose

I think the Government likely to tackle the question of roads soon. As to the difficulties, well, I'm not likely to have my eyes shut to them.

We are dreaming this kind of thing here these days, just because we feel we are on the edge of a big step forward.

The above is not official but a private explanation. When the men as a body move forward it will become official, but I have never advocated policies privately to officials till I knew that I was expressing the men's views.

What a time Old England is having. Heaven forgive the Liberal Olympians, for common man went.

All regards to you and Mrs Hirst.

Yours sincerely

you probably greatly over-estimate what good I'm making in this cause

But it can't be done a foot properly, at earlier speed.

BAILA-BATONGA MISSION

Of the Primitive Methodist Missionary Society

KASENGA

VIA KALOMO

N. RHODESIA.

REV. J. W. PRICE,  
REV. H. S. GERRARD, M.B.

Oct 28/26

30 NOV 1926

Dear Mr Hirst

Your letter fixing Kasenga grant at £1460 is to hand. Will you let me know the grants for the other stations, please; as financial sec in the field I should have them, as I wrote you, and I didn't get them last year.

We have just had the native reserves commission here. One of the three members happens to be a dear friend of mine; the others are the Judge and a well-known magistrate. I believe we are farther from the railway than any other area they have visited. It has been a very interesting time, and some interesting facts have come to light, some interesting theories discussed. Privately both our own Native Commissioner and the Judge have told me, on two consecutive days, what I have suspected for years, viz, that the policy of the Government with the Baila has always been to go slow; the officials were to collect tax and keep the folk quiet. This was because the Government has always been afraid of the Baila - afraid there might be a rising - hence their supine policy. I guess from now onwards my black neighbour will get a little more pressure, and a more decided civilizing policy be adopted.

I gather that Namantombwa and Nambala will find themselves in the strip reserved for whites for mineral reasons, and out of the reserves. It is thought this will mean that the two places will have to be shifted, and what I want to say is that you can look at that question in the light of my last letter to you. It is time I said plainly that, in my estimation, these areas should be worked from Kasenga. As I have told



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you I have carefully refrained from pressing any of my own ideas on you, even when they have been circularized to the men here, unless I knew they carried the vote of the majority here.

Roads will, I judge and have strongly urged, be made throughout the reserves. That will mean that Nanzela and Namantombwa and Nambala as furthest out-posts will be nearer to us Kasenga by motor than our own present out-schools are <sup>on foot</sup>.

This commission, by the way, travelled here in two cars, with two motor lorries for camp equipment; the lorries were driven by natives, and the total staff of so important a commission numbered, I believe, seven natives. Now do you begin to see where I am?

These lorries are very much like another conveyance that was through recently. They will carry about a ton and a half, which means that a man could carry all his kit in one, and even use it for sleeping. They could also be used for other light transport.

Nowadays we are getting any number of motors through to here from the railway.

I have agreed to the policy of reserves, but urged they be not too large or otherwise the native would stew too much in his own juice. You know how I urge contact with whites as vital. Then I have strongly urged a civilizing policy, with wells, dams, dipping tanks, vets and agriculturalists. I told the commission that any taking of native land and giving nothing in return would find definitely put me on the war path.

I hate segregation for the native, and find that a lot of other men, even not missionaries, do also,

## BAILA-BATONGA MISSION

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N. RHODESIA.

and I should fight against it if the native were to be too entirely shut away, and a policy of definite advance not to be adopted.

My friend asked to see my patch wheat, and then would have the other members of the commission go too. They said they had never seen anything like it before. This what one man after another from the railway tells me. A gentleman who is something of a wheat expert has been visiting his official son at Yamwala, and he writes me by this mail that he has spoken to Tielman Roos, <sup>about my wheat</sup> next to Hertzog the leading member of the Union Government at Pretoria, and Tielman Roos would scarcely believe it. The point is that it has been grown without water - no rain and no irrigation, and that it beats that of the white farmers grown under irrigation. It also seems to avoid escape certain <sup>dis</sup>sideases, like rust.

My contention is that the peculiar qualities of that bit of land are very wide-spread on these flats, and that a very big acreage could be planted. What that might mean for the future needs no saying. At this moment I believe wheat is 31/6 a bag on the railway. When it is a kind that requires mixing with other wheats to be palatable for most people, though we eat ourselves whole meal bread from it alone. It seems possible we may be able to grow some of these other kinds here, under my methods. I expect the Government will give us the necessary encouragement to further experiment; the commission said I could apply through them.

Then the half-caste question. A curious fact came out. Something I did in 1910 on this important matter seems to have set wires humming



BAILA-BATONGA MISSION

Of the Primitive Methodist Missionary Society

KASENGA

VIA KALOMO

N. RHODESIA.

REV. J. W. PRICE.

REV. H. S. GERRARD, M.B.

and certain things were done by the Judge and the other magisterial member of the commission, neither knowing where the original impulse had sprung from. They entirely agree with me. "This matter has been a long time in circling round", <sup>back</sup> remarked the Commission Secretary - but I guess its travels will issue in definite policy now. Privately he remarked that at that early date too many members of the Government in high stations had things to hide.

Well, those are a few matters that I think are perhaps worth the typing for your own thought.

I recently sent Mrs Price to the Cape for the hot spell, fearing that otherwise she might not last out the term; so, like the doc, at the moment I'm a grass widower. She will be back about the beginning of December.

Our tree-planting appeals to all who come here. We have lost a lot of our last year's plantings through the heat and poor soil; I deliberately tried hard conditions so as to test the matter for the natives. But we have ample to handsomely pay for expense and labour involved.

The doctor is down to work. He has become a very able fellow.

With all regards

Yours sincerely

J. W. Price

December 1st.,  
1926.

Rev. J.W. Price.  
Kasenga.  
Livingstone.  
N. Rhodesia.

Dear Mr Price,

Thank you for your letter of October 28th. for which I am greatly obliged and your setting of things always interesting gave me considerable concern.

Your reference to the attitude of the Government to the Baila is suggestive and I wonder what the issues of the Native Reserves Commission will be, if Namantombwa and Nambala are affected ultimately as you think possible, it will create a situation that will give us a chance to review your field in that area and I notice in your last letter your suggestions in regard to these stations.

The question of a motor is by no means a simple one for we have to consider no one station nor even one field but all our fields and in addition the Homa Missions. We are constantly brought up by applications for motors or provision for them and if we were to embark on that matter there would be no end to it. I am sure our Committee will not at present consider this. I have raised it but with no favourable response. In Nigeria practically all our men have motor transport of some kind or another for they have miles of good Government roads but every man and each woman who motor cycles has had it to provide for himself. The same demands is being pressed on many of the Home Mission Stations, especially in reference to pulpit supplies by local preachers and it would not be by any means the least of the problems here.

In regard to your position on the policy of reserves, it is one with which I should agree quite definitely, segregation cannot last and the Government, out of what it gets from the natives ought to be able to do something to help in



2.

the way you name.

I was delighted to hear about the success of your wheat patch and the comment both of your friend and of the wheat expert on the matter. I hope that will get round just as the half-caste question got round. I devoutly hope that your position in regard to the latter will be a great and more common and I am glad also to know of the success of your tree planting experiment.

I hope that Mrs Price is back with you and all the better for the change. I heard from Aliwal North that my Sister-in-law had had a nervous break down and that she had been away on a farm for some weeks but that she was better and was returning. We have had our share as I think I told you. My Wife has been in the Florence Nightingale Home, where I understood you had Mrs Price for some time. Mrs Hirst is making steady progress and we expect her home on Saturday, though we shall have a long time of nursing her back to health again.

In your former letter I notice the modification in your own view of things as two men stations in its sense that the central station being increased more than your expected. It will be a great gain in every way if the scheme such as you outline could mature and be made to serve effectively. The whole needs of your field as suggested four men for the whole of the stations and a fifth on furlough with special centres in charge of the best natives, that means such a reduction in our staff. That would liberate needs to more adequately provide for the stations. I wish we could have that presented to us officially. Things here are in a serious state financially we have just finished the seven months coal struggle in a most unsatisfactory way I have ever known any great dispute to end, The men have gone back to work in large numbers though our scale of unemployment must be increased but there is a bitterness about the whole matter that is full of menace. These things are bound to re-act on our funds and at the present time we are overdrawn in our fund alone, £13,000.

I am sending a copy of the grants for your field though both my Secretary and myself are under the impression that a copy has been sent already and we are surprised you have not had it.

Trust you may have a happy Christmastide and that the New Year will be full of blessing. With all good wishes for you both. Yours most sincerely.

21 FEB 1927  
BAILA-BATONGA MISSION  
Of the Primitive Methodist Missionary Society

KASENGA

REV. J. W. PRICE,  
REV. H. S. GERRARD, M.B.

VIA KALOMO

Jan 18/27

N. RHODESIA.

Dear Mr Hirst

I am enclosing a copy of a circular to the men on the Block Grant question. It will speak for itself. I didn't want to write them until I had some sort of suggestion for them, and it took quite a bit of thinking over; besides which I haven't met the man who could quite see his way through the difficulty.

The present situation is very unsatisfactory, because we are practically through the expensive part of our year before we know what our grants are to be. If we waited for permission from home before getting down to building work it would mean drawing up an estimate about March of one year for work we should expect to start on about May of the following year - fourteen months.

My scheme would mean that we should get our estimates to you at the time we are asked now, and that without fail. At your end I don't see that much difficulty could be occasioned.

Then this meeting in early May is really too bad after heavy rains. That journey to Kamantombwa even late in May was just awful. We got there late and tired out; and I for one got something else I haven't got rid of yet.

The Currys came this way, and Mrs Curry had to trudge through deep water and mud at night with her baby. Travelling in July or August would be delightful, and early September is not too bad.

My scheme would leave us with a little elasticity in our arrangements for Synod. On occasion we might ask you to cable the amount of the grant, if for some reason we wanted to meet earlier. If we wished to delay Synod a little, that would



BAILA-BATONGA MISSION

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VIA KALOMO

N. RHODESIA.

REV. J. W. PRICE,  
REV. H. S. GERRARD, M.B.

occasion no difficulty at all.

I think the emphasis is to be laid on meeting for allocation of grants rather than for passing of estimates, and your <sup>block</sup> allocation is not made until July.

Well, if there is a better scheme I don't know it. I'd like to have your word on it as soon as possible. The main thing is the arrangement of the financial year and the date of Synod.

All good wishes

Yours sincerely

J. W. Price.

Please note that the men may turn my scheme down, tho that need not prevent you expressing your opinion on it. But I don't well see how they can.

for which the grant is allowed Kasenga Jan 17/27

Dear Brethren

You may each have received a copy of the following resolution for anything I know.

To the Northern Rhodesian Staff

#### BLOCK GRANTS

Dear Friends

I beg to forward you the following resolutions passed at the meeting held at Leicester, October 26th, 1926. That we decide on the adoption of the payment of grants to the Foreign Fields by a Block Grant arrangement. That the Block Grants as estimated and fixed for the stations in the respective fields be paid through the Superintendents in Fernando Po, Aliwal North, Johannesburg and Nigeria and in N. Rhodesia through the Financial Secretary. The block grant shall include all expenses for normal station expenditure, medical expenses, refurnishing costs, education grants and return passage amounts; whilst there shall be retained and administered from the Missionary Office expenditure on scholarships, furloughs, out-going passage expenses, capital expenditure and extensions in regard to the last two items, it shall be open to the field executives or Synods to make suggestions as to capital expenditure and extensions and as to which priority should be given; the decision in every case to be that of the G.M.C. (Signed) J.H. Hirst.

Mr Hirst's covering letter says: The Committee has decided that the payments of future grants shall be by the Block Grant system and I send you a copy of their resolution. I shall be glad if you can consult your men, or personally if you would send me on any suggestion you may have in relation to the matter. I have named the matter to Mr Slater as he had the financial secretaryship a year ago so that he will know of it. Several of the larger societies have adopted this method, with favourable results, and to the men on the field and those at home it is proving satisfactory. The coal struggle continues still and we are bound to feel it but hope we may see things through.

Mr Hirst anticipates industrial conditions will be none too good, and says our own fund 19929992992992999 alone is at the moment £13000 down.

This means a cut. To that possibility we shall have to face up. I haven't advocated the system of block grants myself, and am inclined to think it a bit premature for this field. I note the limitations on what is left to us to decide, but presumably it is not intended that our hand on Special and Capital Expenditure shall be slackened, but rather the reverse. This tho on the face of it it looks as if the procedure will be as follows: G.M.C. will make its grant, detailing what of Special and Capital Expenditure (development) has been allowed. In allocating station grants we take out these items, with salaries and allowances, and divide the rest according to the needs of the stations. In other words we stand for a cut in Working Expenditure.

Mr Hirst's letter seems to lack detail, and I expect he looks to us to supply it. I don't feel inclined to write him till I have your mind on the matter, so shall probably wait till Synod, which will meet - when? Meanwhile I throw out the following as a basis for discussion and shall be glad of your own schemes by way of reply. Personally I rule out of court two meetings a year for the whole field, one to pass estimates and the other to allocate the grant.

We can send our estimates from Synod, and at the same time give the Field Financial Secretary detailed instructions of the line reductions in grants to stations shall take when the block reduction is decided on by the G.M.C. Or we can appoint a small committee to allocate the grant. They might manage the job by correspondence, or if on one station or adjoining stations they might meet. Or we can ask the G.M.C. to cut the block grant into three - Zambesi, Kafue, Swila - and the Swila men could meet to decide on their allocations. Or, on the other hand, we might send our individual estimates to the Gen Miss Sec direct, and then proceed de novo to divide the spoils when Synod meets. Or a small committee as above might work over the estimates and pass them forward to the G.M.C. I judge we shall have to forward estimates in detail, even tho the grant be on block.

There comes in the question of what period we are estimating



for and for which the grant is allowed. I judge the Society's financial year ends in March, yet my grants for June and even September of 1926 were based on the estimate passed in 1925; not till December was the amount of the grant altered. Every year we each draw up an estimate in Mch or April for the year Mch to Mch, to come before Synod in May. If we have any building on generally it is more than half through before it has been passed by the G.M.C.

Then the date of our annual Synod is too early for any purpose except that of the estimates. We put it off last year - and heard about the matter from the Office.. This year we want to attend the General Conference, but cannot attend that and Synod too unless the date of the latter is such that it upsets the home office. Travelling through mud and water in early May takes all the pleasure out of the trip even for men, and for the women it is sometimes off the map. I've come to the conclusion that the date of Synod should be put later, and the estimate necessities met in some otherway. I suggest the following

We ask the G.M.C. to reckon our financial year from September to September.

That in February we draw up our estimates for the following September, and send a copy to each member of a financial committee composed of the Financial Secretary and two others, who shall work over them. The other two members shall send on their findings to the Financial Secretary, and he shall strike a balance on the findings of all three and forward the results to the General Secretary. Whatever they do, and the reasons for it, they shall write out, and all the correspondence shall be available for examination by any member of the following Synod.

The estimates as passed by this committee shall be forwarded to the G.M.C. by the end of April or the beginning of May.

Annual Synod shall be in September, when we know what the grant is and can make the allocations.

I'll ask Dr Gerrard if he has a better scheme than this, and forward his suggestions along with my own. It wouldn't be amiss if every man send every other his ideas on the matter, as I am doing. It might help to clarify discussion at Synod, for which I make my own suggestions as above.

As to Mr Hirst - I might tell him he has thrown the matter at our heads too suddenly; that it takes us all our time to raise a Synod, let alone extra gatherings; that the expense of meeting for discussion of the matter is too great; that we cant well appoint a committee by correspondence; that the G.M.C. might let the new system rest for a year till we can get it discussed; and so on. I dont see how we can do anything ourselves in the matter before Synod. Perhaps I'll send Mr Hirst a copy of this, on the distinct understanding that I have expressed only my own views - for the good reason that I dont know anybody else's.

Yours sincerely

J. L. Bruce

February 2nd.  
1927.

Rev. J.W. Price.  
Kasenga.  
Namwale.  
Via Livingstone.  
N. Rhodesia.

Dear Mr Price,

I enclose the resolution of our Committee in regard to the report and balance sheet and the report of Dr Gerrard which was enclosed with yours.

I read the story of the work with very great interest and am profoundly thankful for the advance that is being made. In relation to the setting of the question of the boys of mixed race, it is something for a germ seed planted so long ago to bring forth fruit after so many days and in the official mind mature with such apparent hopefulness. I certainly hope that more good will come and more be done for these deserving cases.

The story of your wheat growing greatly interested me and I share something of your own sense of delight in the success achieved. I showed the specimens of the heads of wheat to Mr Smith and also to our Committee. Edwin Smith was not able to get with us as the Doctor has warned him he must restrain his services and for sometime conserve his energy and he has practically broken off all outside work for the next six months. He was pleased with the record but told me he also had grown wheat and that your great test would come with the second crop. I hope that you may go through without irrigation or rain and that you may with selected seed at least do as well, if not better. At the Committee Mr Baldwin also spoke of growing wheat and said that he got quite a good ear but in his case everything was destroyed by the rats and wild animals and that he got scarcely any return for his sowing. It will be a great thing if you can master the



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difficulties and produce a crop of wheat such as this you have sent and the keenness of the Government concerning it is warrant for your further expectation. I share your dream of a new land with altogether new possibilities through what this may mean. All success attend you in your endeavours.

I have had in for a short interview Mr Champion Russell, who was delayed so that we could only have a few minutes together but he is coming later. He was speaking in warmest terms of the work and of your success with the wheat. It was good to hear also of the growing influence of the Doctor's work and the way the people are coming to him. I confess I sympathise with the old Chief who sent four of his wives in one week to be treated, I do not know how he felt about it but there is anxiety enough with one in this land so that if it was proportionate he would have a rough time.

I am pleased to say Mrs Hirst is making progress slowly but I hope surely and we are thankful. I hope that Mrs Price also is keeping better and that you are well.

I note what you say in regard to Namantombwa and Nambala going into the portion of White Reserves in the proposed new arrangements. How would this affect us in regard to our properties? I quite see that so far as our work is concerned it would mean a complete change as I presume it would mean a loss of people.

In regard to Nambala, we asked Mr Buckley to send a report of the station and his report has come to hand. The situation as presented by him is so serious that I feel the whole situation ought to be reviewed unless there are extenuating conditions, I cannot understand the decision of the Synod suggesting the appointment of a man there, however, I shall have to refer to the matter again.

In regard to the financial statement, I have paid into the Holborn Bank to your credit £50 and will deduct this from the usual grant and am also deducting the amount of the Doctor's bill. It is heavy but as I understand him part was to go to other stations so that there was to be some refund to come to you and some grant from the Government.

Thank you for your good wishes which I heartily reciprocate.

Yours most sincerely.

February 17th,  
1937.

Rev. J.W. Price,  
Kasenga.  
Narwala.  
N. Rhodesia.

Dear Mr Price,

I enclose your financial statement and I think you will find it in order.

I am telling the men that they will hear from you in regard to the Elock Grant proposals so that they will be expecting you to set the matter before them. Later I shall try to send out to all the members of our staff a letter dealing with the matter.

You will notice I have deducted the medical account as sent to us by Dr Gerrard, £110. 7. 1. and also the repayment of £50 for the advance we made at the beginning of the month on your instruction. Hope you will find this in order.

Trust that your work is going well and especially I shall be glad to hear of how your wheat growing continues. I have had Mr Champion Russell in to see me again and he is greatly concerned about the wastage of child life in your area and wonders if it would not be possible to form a Mission Colony of the little cast-aways. I told him what was being done and pointed out the difficulty of such a colony as he suggests. He spoke appreciatively of your work and was keen in regard to the wheat growing. I have been in Southport this week end and there met Dr Bentall, one of the L.M.S. men who has had seven years in India. He is interested in their work in your area, especially in reference to the growing of cotton and told me that the first ten grown on their farms had been sold in Liverpool a little while ago. He was interested in your experiment. Mr Russell was asking how you had fared with the Government in relation to grants for Leonard's education, I was not able to fully satisfy him, I hope however your projects for him make progress.



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Here at home we are feeling the re-action from the coal struggle and the financial stringencies are telling. I am much concerned as to how we shall finish the year.

Thank you for your guidance concerning Nambala and Namantombwa, in regard to the former the report sent home by Mr Buckley was very disturbing and I propose to send extracts out to you men for your consideration. Thankful to say my Wife is making progress, if slow we hope sure. My Brother-in-law had a narrow escape in the over turning of his car some weeks ago but happily was not injured.

Trust Mrs Price and yourself are well. With kindest regards,

Yours most sincerely.

March 3rd.  
1927.

Rev. J.W. Price.  
Masenga.  
Nanwala.  
N. Rhodesia.

Dear Mr Price,

Thank you for your letter and the copy of the letter you have sent out to your people. Since your letter was typed you will have received my further letter dealing with Block Grants enclosing the resolutions as it was passed by the Committee. The essential difference in the two resolutions is that the Committee has decided that the grants for the various fields shall include also the salaries and allowances of the men on the field and as I have already informed you with this addition the grant for your field for 1927-8 has been fixed at £8,000 working really on the basis of estimates and expenditure averaged for the past three years and seeking to anticipate the need of the future year. We have budgeted for an income, including the withdrawal we usually make yearly from the Jubilee Fund, of £45,000, that is the standard of last year which was our record. I am concerned as to whether we shall maintain that standard this year for the re-action of the coal struggle is telling heavily upon us.

We want from every field the detailed estimates and personally I see no reason why your Synod should not budget for the year ahead as I share your judgment that two meetings a year for the whole field are impracticable and altogether too expensive. I think that in view of the new responsibility placed on your Synod some Executive should be formed that could act more quickly and more economically than the meeting of the whole of the men of the field. A small Executive



2.

would be able to deal with most matters and by correspondence keep in touch with the whole of the men.

The suggestion to cut the Block Grant into three does not seem to me feasible as in all our fields the field is regarded as one. The estimate in detail must come to us whatever may be the suggestions as to allocation of the Block Grant. The G.M.C. quite correctly reserving the right of ultimate decision as to the apportionment of the grants with all the facts before us.

In regard to your Synod the thing that I cannot understand why the change of date should have seemed so necessary that through the years it has been working. I do not see any insuperable difficulty as to the change of the date but the suggestion of a new financial year for your field as altogether impracticable. The financial year must be in line with the home field for as you will see it is linked up intimately with the Conference and the Connexional year.

We shall want your detailed estimates and your suggested allocation working within the sum apportioned to your field and including in that sum any grants received from the Government for any phase of our work.

I was interested especially in the final paragraph of your letter as to the matter being thrown on you too suddenly when I know that on all the fields number of the staff have had the matter in consideration for some years and with the system of Secretarial appointment it is necessary for me to take it up at once if I am to see it through and after the experience here and interviews with the men and discussions with other Societies and always with Methodist Union as a back ground it was imperative I should present the matter now.

I much appreciate the thought you have given to the scheme and the letter you have prepared and thank you for this extra labour.

In reply to your letter I can only say that I am sorry that the trek to the last Synod should have been so trying for so many of you but then you have had so far as I can remember a year of rain such as your oldest inhabitants cannot remember and we cannot anticipate years like that. I agree with you however there should be some elasticity and so far as I am concerned I am anxious to meet you as you know. I do not think, however, that you can make the Synod a movable appointment as really it is a matter that must come before Conference. I think you will need to let us have

3.

both your estimate and Block allocation as early as possible. I recognise that the men may suggest some other scheme but I cordially thank you for preparing the scheme for their discussion for this after all is a big thing. I shall be glad to hear from you as early as convenient.

Hope Mrs Price and yourself are well. Thankful to say Mrs Hirst is making progress, though very slowly and is still unable to do more than take a short walk whilst to add to our concern our boy last Thursday broke his right arm at football at school, happily he is doing well.

Our united kindest regards.

Yours most sincerely.



5  
BAILA-BATONGA MISSION

Of the Primitive Methodist Missionary Society

KASENGA

REV. J. W. PRICE,  
REV. H. S. GERRARD, M.B.

VIA KALOMO

April 6/27

N. RHODESIA.

Dear Mr Hirst

Quite true. You and I are getting the thick end of this Block Grant business. Glory be to our successors; heaven speed the coming of mine.

Mr Buckley writes: "From your correspondence I assume that as financial secretary you are to have the pleasure of sending out the grants for next quarter, that is June.

If this is so then I am writing you to ask you to kindly Have £50 placed to my credit in the Holborn Hall branch of the National Provincial Bank of England and the balance of my grant placed to my account in Livingstone.

From the look of things you appear to be having quite a lot of rain lately." Mr Buckley is partly right; the weather is decidedly thundery.

Mr Shaw writes: "One point I think we shall have to stand out for is the paying of the salaries of the staff individually."

I think, my dear Chief, that if you refuse this legitimate request ~~to pay our salaries privately~~ we shall just have to refuse to accept them. And what would you do then? Such action would certainly be the downfall of Methodist Union.

Very solicitously yours

J. W. Price

BAILA-BATONGA MISSION

16 MAY 1927

Of the Primitive Methodist Missionary Society

KASENGA

REV. J. W. PRICE,

REV. H. S. GERRARD, M.B.

VIA KALOMO

N. RHODESIA.

April 14/27

Dear Mr Hirst

I have a note from Mr Curry this mail about the burning of his house. He would appear to be under the impression that I have a sum of money in the bank for meeting contingencies on all the stations, and asks me to send him £230 for passage money home. Well, of course I have only this station's funds, and out of those or my own pocket I have now £35 on loan. The Financial Secretary here has neither power nor pence, none whatever, his job being merely to enquire into a/cs and report to Synod. The Church, or General, Secretary is the only man with any authority at all. Mr Slater happens to be here for a couple of days, and I've reported the matter to him.

Curry tells me he has cabled you that they are returning home immediately, so you may have cabled him the necessary funds. He tells me his wife has been badly upset by what has happened; no wonder. Of course he isn't the first man to have his grass roof blazing, not by any means. I've known of several cases. The thing so easily happens. I have no details of how it occurred, and there may be none. I'm awfully sorry for the funds, and quite as much, or more, for the Currys.

Their home-going would soon have been due, and the decision that they go now is quite likely the best.



BAILA-BATONGA MISSION

Of the Primitive Methodist Missionary Society

KASENGA

VIA KALOMO

N. RHODESIA.

REV. J. W. PRICE,  
REV. H. S. GERRARD, M.B.

Of course I don't know Kanchindu at all first hand.  
Financial reports are all in, except Kafue. About half the  
stations seem to be subsisting on the faint far smell of the  
June grant.

Heigho. I hope the laddie is getting all right again, and  
that Mrs Hirst is better than her previous best. All fair-  
ly well here, if only we could get away from "shop" occa-  
sionally.

With kindest regards

Yours sincerely

J. W. Price

April 28th.  
1927

Rev. J.W. Price.  
Kasenga.  
Nampwala.  
Via Livingstone.  
N. Rhodesia.

Dear Mr Price,

Thank you for your letter and I am sorry there is any misunderstanding in regard to the medical account. In a letter I have just received from the Doctor he says he asked us not to deduct from the station account but as a matter of fact in a letter dated October 21st. 1926. he gives the figures of the account with £110. 7. 1. balance for medicines and says "This amount will be charged to Kasenga, some of it I hope to get back by sales of medicines to other stations". It was on this instruction that we deducted from the last quarter's grant. If you are in difficulty you must notify me and I must credit and carry forward until I hear from the Doctor how we shall deal with the matter. I am sorry for any confusion.

I am delighted to hear that he is finding such a reception and cordially welcome the proposal for enlarged ministries through the dispensaries in villages and through definite visits to selected areas. In regard to the Block Grants:-

- (1) The financial year if from April 1st to March 31st.
- (2) We have not yet definitely fixed the time when the statement of the Block Grants shall be sent out but I think in view of the Fernandian Council and Nigerian Synod it would need to be at the end of the calendar year and we should want in estimates that would enable us to make the grants at that early period from you and the other fields at the earlier date.
- (3) The Block Grant of £8,000 to your field is



2.

exclusive of Capital Expenditure but our reservation for Capital Expenditure is not on a large scale so that all applications in connection there with will need to be carefully scrutinised. Anything from that fund would go as you suppose as a further grant.

(4) I shall send the money in quarterly instalments to Livingstone to be at the disposal of the man appointed by the Synod on the usual quarter dates, June 1st, September 1st, December 1st and March 1st.

In regard to your letter to your colleagues, I appreciate the suggestion for the early preparation of the estimates for 1928-29 and personally I think the Finance Committee you suggest would be able to deal with the matter and at a later date than your Synod. With a Synod meeting in June I should also need the Annual Report preparing on the line with the financial year, the returns of membership, and the statistical report. These must all be in the Office to allow time for preparation to present to the April G.M.C. and also to the District Meeting and Conference. In other ways we simply create difficulties for all the departments that are concerned with our yearly returns. When I said the estimates in detail will be sent to us I simply meant your estimates for the station ~~after~~ after your revision and settlement must be sent to me.

In fixing the Block grant for £8,000 for this year for your field we have carefully gone through all the figures for the last three years and on the basis of these figures made our decisions. That was the best that could be done but you can send from your Synod estimates to me for the year 1928-29. I shall need to know to whom the money is to be paid as Financial Secretary and I think you will find that this method will make for efficiency and ease of working. Thank you for the papers you sent which I have read with deep interest, we forwarded Mr Linfield a copy and I took a copy to Mr Smith but found he had already received copies. You have a difficult situation to face but the opportunity of shaping the temper and spirit of a new land and I know you will appreciate that and do the best you can for your people.

I greatly appreciate your tribute to your colleagues and to the African teachers and am glad to have it.

Our finances are causing us considerable concern as this year we have a debit balance of £4617 with only £5900 of the Jubilee Fund left to use for current purposes. Seeing that for the last two years we have drawn £7600 and £7300 respectively you will see what this means to us. We must have an additional normal income for Africa of at least £10,000 if our work is to be maintained and with the present economic position that is a serious thing.

3 .

I enclose a copy of the balance sheet and from it you will see the cost of the beginning at Nambala and I can assure you there is very grave concern in our Committee for the expenditure for Nambala and Namantombwa together totals £2300 has against £817 the previous year. References to this part of the district becoming a native reserve have also been raised and I should appreciate your statement as to this likely issue in regard to our stations.

We have all been concerned about Kanchindu fire and anxiously await further information as to Mr Curry and hope that he is not injured seriously nor marked permanently.

I am glad that Mrs Price is better and hope that she will maintain her health. I can appreciate your concern all the more now especially as we are realising what a slow business convalescence can be.

I expect you will have Mr Murray up to see you shortly and I expect you will have a good time with him.

I cannot write Dr Gerrard today but I am delighted with his report and will write him as soon as possible

With cordial greeting to you all and  
with every good wish.

Yours most sincerely.



May 18th.  
1927.

Rev. J.W. Price.  
Kasenga.  
Via Namwala.  
Via Livingstone.  
N. Rhodesia.

Dear Mr Price,

Your letter dated April 14th to hand and I cabled Mr Curry the sum he asked for in reply to the cable informing me of the fire. The terms of the cables are as follows:-

"Kanchindu House wrecked by fire Curry & family safe Curry badly scorched letter follows - Lyon "

"Cable Bank Bulawayo £200 passage sailing immediately - Curry "

In view of this and the fact that Mr and Mrs Curry were due home in a few months I agreed to their return and I presume they will now be on the way.

I have had letters from both Mr Lyon and Mr Curry. Mr Lyon in his letter says that practically everything belonging to the Mission ~~station~~ Curry's was destroyed, that the furniture lost would cost £150 and he informed me that Mr Curry estimated his loss at £400. That to me is a surprising figure and I expect when Mr Curry arrives he will give to us a detailed statement. The paragraph dealing with the matter in Mr Lyon's letter is as follows:-

"Mr Curry estimates his loss nearly £400. He had a library of 600 books and practically all have gone. All their private belongings have been burnt, including gold and silver valuables, typewriter, china, carpets and all clothing. They have of the latter what they had at the time."

2.

I give you this information as Financial Secretary and I should be glad to have any guidance you can give me in relation to the matter.

Mr Curry says he received burns on the face and legs and that "Mrs Curry has just recovered from a most severe attack of fever, she is suffering greatly from shock and her condition is at present critical." In view of a report like that I am thankful they are on their way and I shall be pleased when we can see them and get actual particulars.

I was interested in your paragraph saying "that he isn't the first man to have his grass roof blazing" but if these reports are verified it is at least a most serious matter for the field as well as for them. I sincerely hope that the Curry's are not suffering permanently and again my anxiety will be lifted when I can meet them.

Mr Buckley sent me word about the £50 for Holborn but his full grant was paid to the South African Bank so that I shall now pay £50 into his credit at Holborn and deduct next quarter when remitting to you and give you particulars of all the deductions made.

In regard to Mr Shaw's suggestions that salaries should be paid direct from this end, that is impracticable as Block Grants under those conditions would be useless. I think you will find things work out smoothly and all the Societies that have tried the method speak of its efficiency and its utility.

Trusting Mrs Price and yourself are well. Thankful to say our Boy's arm is gone on splendidly and Mrs Hirst makes progress slowly, personally I am thankful to say I am well.

With kindest regards and all good wishes.

Yours most sincerely.



4-JUL 1927

BAILA-BATONGA MISSION

Of the Primitive Methodist Missionary Society

KASENGA

REV. J. W. PRICE,  
REV. H. S. GERRARD, M.B.

VIA KALOMO

June 2/27

N. RHODESIA.

Dear Mr Hirst

Dr and I, and Mrs Price too, are just run off our feet, and I have things I must see to at once. I'll send you literary report next week.

All well, and work swinging. By our standards this isn't one station, it's two. Figures Gerrard brings from the hospital, for instance, the last I've heard - one day eighty patients and yesterday 75. Orderlies at it till late afternoon. Tell his dear dad that my dream has come true, the dream I never lost sight of when, pretty well, compelled by the conditions I inherited here, I said things. He and his job are great.

Leonard left us for Morija today. Gerrard feels as confident in him as I do, tho I never knew it till two days ago. I've taken my own road with the lad, a road some men would think dangerous, and as G. says it has certainly worked. Bless the bonny lad if one dared have done it I'd have taken him to England. He's a coloured gentleman, loved and loving with both black and white. You know I'm a bit of a prophet, and sometimes appear to have an almost uncanny knack of seeing a man's possibilities. Well, just now the prophetic mantle is on me. That lad, please God, is coming back after Morija and Lovedale to be our first coloured minister, as fine a fellow as Rhang Gill, and finer in some ways tho it seems almost sacrilege to suggest it. He's going to do the work of a white missionary, and in some ways do it better. But this is not for the public, only your own ear anxious to catch the notes of success.

The lad loves the very ground my wife treads. And he's a gentleman I say, refined, naturally courteous and thoughtful, loving beauty, tender to animals and children. Who's the darned fool who says the half-caste inherits the vices of both races and the virtues of neither. Wring his neck as a slanderer.

Leonard did nearly all the preparation of last year's entrants into Kafue, and there has never been a batch so large or so good. They are 3rd place and onwards in the Institute in their first year.

Wh what a job. Struggle, trial, failure, and a bit of golden gleaming success. I wish I were beginning again with the knowledge I have now.

But it's a bit heavy here now, and I can't get at the things, the extras, I want to do.

Good-night, I'm tired. Financial statement must leave first thing in the morning.

All the best to you. I guess you'll be ready for a long holiday when you leave Holborn. Cheerio. Love to the universe in general, especially a bundle of the dearest fellows on the planet you meet sometimes.

Aye yours

J. L. Ogilvie.

## BAILA-BATONGA MISSION

Of the Primitive Methodist Missionary Society

KASENGA

VIA KALOMO

REV. J. W. PRICE,

REV. H. S. GERRARD, MBE

June 4/27

N. RHODESIA.

Dear Mr Hirst: Mrs Smith that that night Smith got one of the leaders of his life. I want a good Bible for Leonard (Shimunza) and don't know just which to get. It should be one to last his life, or much of it, a good strong flexible back well stitched and good type. I rather think the "Helps" had better be separate, but it should have maps. Do you mind finding out just what would be best for him - perhaps I ought to have written Smith rather than you - and having it addressed leading them in the Leonard Shapela beautiful in Smith's translation I think as in English. Mrs Smith The Institute mother to him during our absence.

Moriya

A week or two ago he was at Basutoland told us, in a short meeting address, about my speaking once, and he S. Africa. Then have it charged up to me. I know you won't mind the trouble. Or Smith might choose it - you will get him on the phone. Never mind the price so long as it is a suitable thing. My own feeling is that that Bible may well become historic, so confident am I that the lad will find all grace to bring him back to his own folk and to the work which as a mere child he dedicated himself to. Bitterly shall I be disappointed, and my wife even more so, should he fail of what I am confident is his high calling.

Here is a bit of material for you. In 1907 we went across to spend a few days with Andrew Dale, and on one day visited the store about five miles away. As Wacks bustled round getting a cup of tea for his guests we sat in his dining hut; and just now there crept in a little coloured child of about three years, who smiled up into my face and began to stroke the leg of my trousers. Right from the first he was ours, as if he knew he belonged to us. "Mr Wacks, who have you got here?" "Well", replied the little Jew trader, "he's from Shapela's village near by". "Do you think Shapela would let him come to us?" "Aye, I wish you could take him". He sent across to Shapela to ask him, and that evening the little lad was handed over to us. Dale was pleased too. The first job was to strip him of the dirty rags that covered all his legs, and wash him from head to foot. Wacks, kindly little fellow, had been doing his best for the lad. Then the sores were re-dressed, and, quite contented, he left with us for Mansela.

We had to let him sleep a night or two on the floor of our room, but after that he had to go to the compound. To rear him as white meant jeopardising his future. But from the first he hung round Mrs Price, helped a little in the house out of school hours, and had the best that could be for him without disassociating him from his own people. He was a weakly little fellow, and would almost certainly have died if left at his village.

And all the time. Every year there was a little money for him to make his own mother a present of a blanket. Today he is very tender to his own mother and people, and they to him, while my wife is also "mother" to him as to none other among the natives.

Poor little fellow, when we left for home in 1911 he sobbed bitterly. As I walked along past the house his wee figure suddenly appeared from behind the fence, and with a big sob he threw his arms round my legs.



## BAILA-BATONGA MISSION

Of the Primitive Methodist Missionary Society

KASENGA

VIA KALOMO

N. RHODESIA.

REV. J. W. PRICE.

REV. H. S. GERRARD, M.B.

7/2/22  
We had it from Mrs Smith that that night Smith got one of the lessons of his life, somewhat in this wise: He had come over to take Nanzela off my hands, but was anxious to get back to Mrs Smith so left Nanzela the day we did. Tired, he retired to his tent after supper and got into bed; but, hearing voices, jumped up and peeped through the tent door. The wee man had the big Baila gathered round him, and was praying God to bless his father and mother and take them safely home. He ended by leading them in the Lord's prayer, as beautiful in Smith's translation I think as in English. Mrs Smith was another mother to him during our absence. This was how you, I know, every time it's the key man

who counts. A week or two ago he ~~was~~ told us, in a class meeting address, about my speaking once, and he, a wee man, went down into the fields and prayed that God would accept him. Nothing particular happened, and he rather concluded he was a little too young for such matters. The Dr's keen interest found expression in the question: "Why, hadn't you heard that before?" No, I replied.

Very early indeed he told me he intended to become a teacher among his people.

In 1919 he was at Kafue waiting for us, had been there some months when we managed to get berths. I remember that while other boys pressed forward to greet us he hung back shyly - that is his nature. Then he accompanied us to Namantombwa and Kasenga. A year later we sent him to the Institute, Bethesda church Hull, where we had ministered for some months, having paid his fees three times over. I thought the charges £10 a year instead of £10 the three years.

At Kafue he did well, and Mr Fell wanted him back later on the staff but we didn't feel like letting him go. Young Shiita, the cleverest brain passed into Kafue, beat him at lessons. But Leonard who already knew how to type, was a sort of secretary to Mr Fell, and - a good private secretary he would make for he is loyal to the bone and no tale-bearer.

When we got back here after last furlough we found him at danger point. We and Shiita and Edwin, another clever lad, were full of the idea of seeing a little of the world. Said the Gerrards' later "If you hadn't come back they would have gone down country". Shiita did go, but he keeps in touch and I'm sure will return. I think of Shiita as our Jacob Mohan.

Then the lad got settled down, and during the year the doctor was away, left almost to himself by me, he prepared a batch of a dozen lads for Kafue to such tune that they carried all before them and many of them are doing top standard work now, surpassed only by about three 2nd and 3rd year students. And all the while his influence has grown, till there is probably no more steady force on the field, in this period when teachers on some stations are proving difficult, than this lad of twenty-two.

Steadfast he is. If he comes back, as he says he shall and as I, and Gerrard too, firmly believe he will, he is not unlikely to

## BAILA-BATONGA MISSION

Of the Primitive Methodist Missionary Society

KASENGA

VIA KALOMO

N. RHODESIA.

REV. J. W. PRICE.

REV. H. S. GERRARD, M.B.

be as fine an asset as this field will possess, black or white. Our greatest need is strong, sure native leadership.

I shall watch him more eagerly than any dozen others. Then about money for his fees. Mr Russell wrote me about them, and others have spoken. But my word to Leonard has been: "Pay your own way as far as ever you can, asking help of none". A little money has come his way through transport of mealies - Government lacked them and I set him free from the station pro tem - and his way is clear for two or three years anyhow.

This won't bore you, I know. Every time it's the key man who counts. God keep him all I think he may be. The word of my most trusted colleagues is that our method has certainly succeeded with Leonard. But it isn't just method. The lad has good blood in him. He has CHARACTER. It may well be that he will be worth more than all the rest of my twenty year's work, this dear lad of my wife's - so peculiarly her's.

And I'm writing of a standard five youth - isn't it ridiculous? No, it isn't.

Aye yours

J. W. Price

Here is a bit of material for you. In 1907 we went across to spend a few days with Andrew Dala, and on one day visited the store about five miles away. As Waka bustled round getting a cup of tea for his guests we sat in his dining hall; and just now there stood a little coloured child of about three years, who walked up into my face and began to stroke the leg of my trousers. Right from the first he was sure, as if he knew he belonged to us. "Mr Waka, who have you got here?" "Well", replied the little yow trader, "he's from Shapela's village near by". "Do you think Shapela would let him come to us?" "Yes, I wish you could take him". He went across to Shapela to ask him, and that evening the little lad was handed over to us. Dale was pleased too. The first job was to strip him of the dirty rags that covered all his legs, and wash him from head to foot. Waka, kindly little fellow, had been doing his best for the lad. Then the sores were re-dressed, and, quite contented, he left with us for Namwala.

We had to let him sleep a night or two on the floor of our room, but after that he had to go to the compound. To rear him as white meant jeopardizing his future. But from the first he hung round Mrs Price, helped a little in the house out of school hours, and had the best that could be for him without disassociating him from his own people. He was a weakly little fellow, and would almost certainly have died if left at his village. Every year there was a little money for him to make his own mother a present of a blanket. Today he is very tender to his own mother and people, and they to him, while my wife is also "mother" to him as to none other among the natives. For little fellow, when we left for home in 1911 he wept bitterly. As I walked along past the house his wee figure suddenly appeared from behind the fence, and with a big sob he threw his arms round my legs.



BAILA-BATONGA MISSION

Of the Primitive Methodist Missionary Society

11 JUL 1927

KASENGA

REV. J. W. PRICE,  
REV. H. S. GERRARD, M.B.

VIA KALOMO

N. RHODESIA.

June 7/27

Dear Mr Hirst

I enclose my "literary" report, tho I guess there isn't much of a literary flavour about some I and others send you.

You may think me a bit over-exuberant about Leonard, but I don't think I've over-stated matters. Ever, in thinking of Leonard, the thought of John Khang Gill comes to me. How many native teachers was Johnny Gill worth. White or black, in our work it's the man every time. Grip that tight.

I say, another week's mail is just to hand, and no word about the grant. The fellows won't get their money till July if it is all coming to me; and some of them are on the rocks. We don't seem to have any English mail this week; a not unusual occurrence that you should bear in mind, if you don't mind my saying so.

Do you know, I'm a bit tired, and could do with a little rest. I may manage a day or two at the Falls between Synod and Conference.

Not much chance of getting on with the "extras" one loves nowadays. I've scarcely done a page of literary work since Bowdler came to Kasenga. I'm very little better off, really, with Gerrard, for he now brings his own work. He does four times as much as Bowdler did, and there have been days when he has looked utterly fagged out; besides which, of course, in everything he means so much more; but any gain scarcely reaches me nowadays in the shape of ease. However, that's all right. By the way the doctor is now talking again of asking for a nurse - but don't say anything of this, let him write himself. There certainly should be a medico to take his place when he goes home next, for a longer or shorter period as the case may be.

My own plans are fluid. I don't feel as if I have definite guidance yet. My wife said a queer thing to me the other day, to the effect that she felt last time we must return for the sake of Leonard. She had been through the mill so much that had she given the word I think we must have stayed at home. For I don't believe in any but special men being out here without their wives; if the wife is any good at all she should greatly increase her husband's effectiveness. I know mine does. She takes no part in teaching or preaching, but she does a lot else. Take one monetary item. School soap probably costs a normal station ten to twelve pounds a year; Mrs Price makes ours for about 15/- a quarter.

Well, I'll ring off. Gerrard is just back from Namwala inspection. By jove I'd like to be a doctor for a week or two just to have a go at Livingstone and Colonial office about their miserly grant to our medicos. My advice to Gerrard would be to fling it back in their faces, were it not that in any case he would have to do the work, for I suppose a doctor cannot refuse a call.

Neigho. The man who comes here, if he keeps his heart right, should have a gorgeous job waiting for him. I say that knowing that some reports you receive are not entirely cheery. I write of my native

BAILA-BATONGA MISSION

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KASENGA

REV. J. W. PRICE,

REV. H. S. GERRARD, M.B.

VIA KALOMO

N. RHODESIA.

colleagues as I find them, and I have little or no occasion to speak of them as some others do. There has been serious danger of a very wide breach between white and black, and on the native side the man who has done more than anybody else to bridge the gulf is Leonard. I knew nothing about what was happening till I went to Synod last year, and I went from a tone entirely different. This year I've known more of what was happening than any other, because I made it my business to know - and checkmate. I think we may have a very good Synod, if the "Chair" does its work well. But this also is private.

Aye yours

J. W. P.



*Private*

BAILA-BATONGA MISSION

Of the Primitive Methodist Missionary Society

KASENGA

REV. J. W. PRICE,

VIA KALOMO

REV. H. S. GERRARD, M.B.

June 9/27

N. RHODESIA.

Dear Mr Hirst

I'm glad to hear the lad and his mother are better; but I fear from your note that Mrs Hirst makes haste a little slowly. Mind you don't smash yourself before your term ends. I'd give every out-going secretary a jolly good holiday if I had the bawbees.

Glad also the anniversary was so successful.

"I enclose a corrected copy of your financial statement".

But, my dear Chief, where be it? Not in this envelope.

You had better drop any idea of deducting that £110 medical a/c from this station, dear sir. Allow for the amount when dealing with your capital expenditure grant ~~from here~~. You won't get the money back from Gerrard's income this year - I don't think so. Don't run us short here, where real work is being done.

Well, I wish I had five minutes talk with you about this block grant; but it will all straighten itself out.

But, dear Mr Hirst, where are the bawbees this quarter? Next mail reaches here on the 14th, and I haven't a word from the bank as to any money at all.

Wheat. Utter failure so far this year. Very low rainfall, and also I suspect the seed sent by the Government wasn't the same as my last year's obtained casually. Well, big things don't get going in five minutes, and the experiment continues inexpensively. This year we had to start watering fruit trees immediately after the rains; normally we don't water at all.

*without due* I note the other things you say. Look here, my feeling is that Fell should have his joiner and carpenter; a real Institute on Le Zoute lines for such a Field as this is scarcely thinkable, to my mind. Now get your map, and listen and look. I'm minded at Synded to move:

1. That Buckley go to Kafue, and start earning a grant.
2. That Nambala area come under Kasenga.
3. That all Nanzela station north of Nkala, and along the river Kafue, be transferred to Kasenga.
4. That Nanzela relinquish a man to Kasenga.

This would be a step in the direction of the scheme I outlined to you; the day is coming when a lad like Leonard will work Nanzela and Namantombwa.

I rather think that move would put new life into some of these areas. Things are not moving as they should. Kasenga seems to lead nowadays in everything but the number of its members and the number of its schools.

That move would relieve things here a bit too. This shop gets heavy. Here's Gerrard with 103 patients this morning, plus some school boys. How much station work can he carry in addition?

But the move won't pass. We have some good fellows, careful fellows, economical fellows in small ways, who don't see beyond the end of their noses.

All which is not official, but between me and my friend Mr Hirst.

July 14th  
1927.

Rev. J.W. Price.  
Kasenga.  
Nampwala.  
P.O. Livingstone.  
N. Rhodesia.

Dear Mr Price,

Thank you for your letters in which I was deeply interested and I am delighted that Leonard is getting through to the Training Institute and I hope that in going forward he will justify your confidence and that the work that Mrs Price and you have given in his life may bring a great return. If your thought of him is worthy to stand in comparison with John Enang Gill is correct the ultimate issues will be wonderful. You will be pleased to learn that amongst those ordained at the last District Synods in England, three men to my knowledge paid tribute to the influence of John Enang Gill on their own lives and admit his ministry as one of the things that had helped them in their work. You will, I think, agree that this is a wonderful result.

I am glad to know the Doctor's work is extending on so wide a basis and that you feel so gratified there with, certainly the development is a delight and I share your thankfulness. I expect you will have had a full time at the Synod and the Conference following and I am anxious to get the fuller news. The letter from Mr Shaw and the cabled following have left me anxious and I shall be glad to have particulars.

I note your paragraph in regard to your own plans and sincerely hope that this is not a sort of prophecy of leaving the field. I know your view in regard to a man having his wife and for your field that seems best though in Nigeria they are just as strong that the first term a man goes out along and on probation so I have to try to meet both situations.

I hope Mrs Price is keeping better and that you yourself are well.



2.

I will attend to the matter of the Bible for Leonard and may be able to secure it from some of our men as a gift to him. Your recital of his life story is significant and I am glad in that message to be able to know something of it.

I am glad to say that our Boy Asquite well and his arm has splendidly recovered. My Wife is better but I judge it will take until the end of the year to see her normal.

I am sorry that your wheat experiments have failed this year but hope that another year it may come out successfully.

I note your proposals as to stationing and shall be concerned to see how far they have matured and what actual steps have been taken.

Things at home are much the same, the economic conditions in the mining areas is a little improved and the problem of finance is a grave concern it will take us all out time to lift the income as it is needed.

With warmest regards and all good wishes.

Yours most sincerely.

5.

Kasenga  
Namwala  
via Livingstone  
July 14/27

Dear Mr Hirst

We are just back from Synod, and I hasten to send you the estimate for the year. The time is nearly 11.p.m., and I must be up early; but post goes in the morning, and this must be sent you without any further delay. Matter on the block grant I can send next week. I think all is clear now.

I begged to be relieved from the Financial Secretaryship, but failed to get my desire so must just carry on.

You will see how I have drawn up the estimate in columns that shew at a glance the expenditure under any heading of the different stations. As I followed the same course in my suggested estimates for Synod. Even the man whose estimate I cut by about two hundred pounds could say nothing, with figures for the other stations staring him in the face, for expenditure under the same headings. I first cut estimates down to the minimum, and we built up a little from that. If a man wanted more than I had allocated to him he had to shew reason for asking for it. You will see that our total, including Capital Expenditure, is only £147 more than the £8000 you have set aside for Working Expenditure alone. There was a strong feeling among us that we should face up to the matter adequately, in view of the difficult times through which the home church is passing.

Now a few notes on the different items:

The £100 Medical estimate for Kasenga is net. His estimate is made up as follows:

Repairs to dispensary	4	
New wards necessary for grant	120	
Medicines	75	
Food	43	
Wages of orderlies	20	270
Less Government Grant		130
		---
		100

As a matter of fact he has received only one month's grant to date - it is being sent in monthly instalments - and so will not receive all the £170 before next March.

We felt very strongly that Miss Brown should be enabled to visit other centres where work among girls is done, before fixing her plans at Kafue, and we request £30 expenses for here on that a/c. We want her to visit places like Hope Fountain, the L.M.S. mission outside Buluwayo. Otherwise she will be working more or less in the dark.

You have granted Kafue its printing press, and cannot very well refuse the paper to use it on. "Bricks" for Nanzela and Kafue is for work to be estimated for later; most of this we found had been already spent.

Apparently Synod was almost unanimously in favour of working the Zambesi area from the new site at Masuku, for reasons that must be perfectly obvious to the Committee. I think Lyon will make a good thing of Masuku, a much better thing industrially than he could make of Kanchindu. On the financial side he is as careful a man as we and expenditure shew consistently. I hope you

Namartombwa finished the year with a debit balance of £47 and we ask have estimated for the removal of that debit. Stations cannot be worked economically and well on money to be received three months hence. But we made quite plain that from now onwards men would spend beyond their grants at their own risk.

I think that is all I need write tonight, and I'm rather tired. We have so cut down estimates that we feel reasonably hopeful you will pass them all without alteration.

With all regards

Yours sincerely

*J. W. Bruce*



# BAILA BATONGA MISSION ESTIMATES

1927 - 28

*Rombala*

	Namwala	Namantombwa	Namwala	Kasenga	Kanchindu	Kafue
Salaries	400	400	760	800	470	980
Children Allow	32	57	-	64	20	64
Insurance	6	-	7	1	-	-
House Allow	-	-	-	40	-	-
Teachers	65	62	330	209	265	100
Furniture	20	20	30	30	20	40
Medical	15	15	15	100	15	15
Travel	20	35	40	40	35	30
Education	30	30	45	40	40	130
Uniform	30	30	40	40	40	100
Repairs Upkeep	40	40	50	50	40	65
Farm and Food	60	80	70	100	70	200
Railage	20	25	35	35	35	75
Agency	2	2	3	3	2	1
Transport	30	30	60	50	30	-
Synod	19	19	19	19	19	19
Sundries	12	12	12	12	12	15
Post, runners	7	12	11	10	15	10
Customs	-	-	-	-	-	5
Meat and salt	-	-	-	-	-	40
Miss Brown	-	-	-	-	-	30
Timber	-	-	20	-	-	20
Attendance lan-	-	-	-	-	-	-
guage co'tee	-	-	-	10	-	-
Wells	-	10	10	15	-	-
Roads	10	-	-	-	10	-
Oxen	-	12	24	-	-	-
Tools	-	-	18	8	-	10
Church-Repairs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Implements	-	25	-	12	10	-
Grinding Machine	10	15	-	-	-	-
Reims	-	-	-	-	-	5
Farm wages	-	-	-	-	-	100
Implement reps	-	-	-	-	-	25
Dip	-	-	-	-	-	5
Seed	-	-	-	-	-	10
Grease	-	-	-	-	-	5
House, Hill-Sta	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kan	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paper for print-	-	-	-	-	-	50
ing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ant Coursefor	-	-	-	-	-	50
No 1 house	-	-	-	-	-	75
Bricks	-	-	30	-	-	-
Repairs Church	-	-	12	-	-	-
Dormitories	5	40	-	20	-	-
Grain	-	-	-	-	-	20
House at Hill	-	-	-	-	-	-
Station, Ka-	-	-	-	-	200	-
nchindu	-	-	-	-	-	-
Last year's debit	-	-	-	-	-	-
balance	-	47	-	-	-	-
Totals	843	1018	1641	1708	1343	2294
Income	29	30	75	55	60	456
Net estimate	814	988	1566	1653	1283	1838

*Less 247  
expenses  
£941.*

*Total net estimate £78147*

*£50/1/4*

# BLOCK GRANTS

19 AUG 1927

## BLOCK GRANTS cont.

1. I move that we receive the following resolution from the G.M.C.:- That we decide on the adoption of the payment of grants to the Foreign Fields by a Block Grant arrangement. That the Block Grant as estimated and fixed for the stations in the respective fields be paid through the Superintendents in Fernando Po, Aliwal North, Johannesburg and Nigeria and in N. Rhodesia through the Financial Secretary. The Block Grants shall include all expenses for normal station expenditure, medical expenses, refurnishing costs, education grants and return passage amounts; whilst there shall be retained and administered from the Missionary Office expenditure on scholarships, bursarials, out-going passage expenses, capital expenditure and extensions; in regard to the last two items, it shall be open to the field executives or Synods to make suggestions as to capital expenditure and extensions and as to which priority shall be given; the decision in every case to be that of the G.M.C. Block grant is I suggest that we allow the term "Capital Expenditure" to straighten itself out in practice. It obviously covers buildings, and that is as much as we need it for this year. I cannot tell you when the first instalment of the grant on block will be sent. I understood from Mr Hirst that it would come this June. Neither has he informed me what amounts he has sent to the stations, so I shall not have these figures from the Office to pass on to my successor.
2. I move we note that Mr Hirst says: "I shall send the money in quarterly instalments to Livingstone to be at the disposal of the man appointed by Synod at the usual quarter dates, June 1st, Sept 1st, Dec 1st, and Mch 1st; and that we understand this to mean that the local bank's notification of the arrival of the remittance, and Mr Hirst's statement, should reach the hands of the Financial Secretary by, or before, the above dates."
3. I move we understand from Mr Hirst that he favours the early drawing up of estimates, and the passing of them by Synod or a Finance Committee appointed by the Field, so that the revised estimates may be available at the Home Office when the Block Grant is fixed "about the end of the Calendar year".
4. I move we understand from Mr Hirst that under the Block Grant system arrangements with the G.M.C. for all payments, including private monies to be retained in England, will have to be made through the Field Financial Secretary.
5. I move the appointment for this year of a Financial Committee of two members in addition to the Financial Secretary to receive estimates, revise them, present revisions to the Field by post, receive complaints of those revisions, finally revise and forward to the Home Office in Synod's name. We can decide next year whether to re-appoint the

out of office this Synod, but we shall need some lines for discussion to take. If any other man thinks he has a better scheme let him present it early in Synod, so that we may decide whether or not to base discussion on it and get the working of the new single a/c system. Probably the new Fin. Sec. will do well to see the bank manager as to the best scheme.

J.W. Price.



# BLOCK GRANTS cont.

the business through. Here are my own suggestions for fitting in with what we know of G.M.C.'s plans.

Annual Synod to be about July.

At each Synod our financial task will be a treble one.

- a. The overhauling of expenditure of the previous year.
- b. Allocation of the block grant for the current year.
- c. The receiving of estimates, previously revised by the Fin Sec, for the year beginning the following March. These estimates should have reached the hands of the Fin Sec in time to allow of this revision. Thus estimates would be for a year ahead. If we appoint a Financial Committee to decide on them they need not be drawn up quite so early. Estimates, revised, to be forwarded to the Home Office. G.M.C. to inform our Fin Sec about the end of the calendar year following, and what the amount of the block grant is to be.

The Fin Sec to report G.M.C.'s decisions at once to the field, so that every man may know by the beginning of March what Capital Expend he is allowed, and approximately what will be his allowance under the block grant.

Every man to inform the Finance secretary by June 1st, Sept 1st, Dec 1st, and Mar 1st, what a/cs the Home Office is to meet on his behalf in London, and what money should remain to be sent here for him or for his station, from the following quarter's grant. From these statements the Fin Sec will draw up his schedule for the Home Office, to be forwarded at once. To avoid complications the return statement from the Home Office, and so the monies paid, should exactly coincide with that of the Field Fin Sec, as will be seen later. We are up against a time difficulty that seems to my poor wit something of a difficulty.

Now the question as to how the Fin Sec is to disburse the money to the field.

If he lived in Livingstone he could do it by chq, and no delay would be involved. Our Home Office perhaps thinks of the matter in terms of Nigeria and a man at Port Harcourt. The only clear way out that I see is the following: By the time the bank receives the money it should already have received from the Financial sec instructions as to how it is to be distributed to the various station a/cs. On the arrival of the money the bank would immediately notify each man and station as hitherto. If the money sent by the Home Office happens for some reason or other to be less than the amount scheduled for by the Fin Sec, the latter will draw heavily on the bank of his special vocabulary. The amount a man receives in the field, and the monies paid

acknowledged on the statement for the quarter in which the money is sent let it send earlier. Any man passing through Mpanza or Macha enquire into the working of their single a/c system. probably the new Fin Sec will do well to see the bank manager as to the best scheme.

J.W.Price.

18 JUL 1927

BAILA-BATONGA MISSION

Of the Primitive Methodist Missionary Society

KASENGA -

VIA KALOMO

REV. J. W. PRICE,

REV. H. S. GERRARD, M.B.

June 15/27

N. RHODESIA.

was it ever struck you that if we had native trouble here  
Dear Mr Hirst, to go west would be the thatches of any buildings  
and ever. At last I have word from the bank of my grant.

The amount of the grant doesn't reach our estimate for this  
year, and we shall be rather hard put to. The medical authorities  
now tell Gerrard that they are sending on his allowance monthly.  
That strikes me as a bit mean, and it increases our difficulties,  
for now is the time for building and grain buying.

On Curry's estimate of his loss through the fire I can say  
nothing, because I haven't the details. I'll bring the matter before  
Synod for discussion. My paragraph saying that "he isn't the  
first man to have his grass roof blazing" did not, of course, refer  
to any of our men, easily as the thing might have happened to  
several of us. I think you could wisely talk over the whole question  
with Mr Smith. Grass has certain advantages, but it has some very  
serious disadvantages also, and it is so risky in so dry a climate  
that men should not be allowed to build places to cover valuables  
just in order to save the extra expense of an iron roof. We loved  
our old house at Nansela, but we never returned from trek without  
a touch of anxiety lest it should be just a black ruin. The thing  
so easily happens, and has so easily happened times innumerable.  
A spark from a veld fire, a moment's carelessness, a single incen-  
diary match, and away goes everything. I don't know whether any  
blame attaches to Curry or not; but the fact that the thing so  
easily happens almost precludes any possibility of blaming anybody.

I'm awfully sorry about the whole affair. All the same  
it may draw attention to this question of housing, and I hope it  
may give some check to a sort of economy that is rather piffling  
when all is said. I can say that to you, because you know that *question*  
isn't at all a small one in my eyes.

In dealing with Curry just remember that to save G.M.C.  
money these men down in the Zambesi built a house of sun-dried  
brick and grass, with the consequent risk. The occasional has hap-  
pened, and their bits of wedding presents, his books, their pic-  
tures, etc have all gone, many of them things that can't be replaced.  
And they are people who love good things. I've heard people argue  
against bringing their nice things out here. Others say they have  
left their books at home - and some use such are when they get  
back home. I've no patience with that attitude. We come out here  
for the best of our lives, and should have good homes and a civili-  
sed life as far as it is to be had. Accident - say an insurrection  
among the natives - might rob us of everything, but the risk  
should be run. Goods will deteriorate - but at least we have the  
uplift of them. We need all the uplift we can get in our homes, for  
there's very little outside them.



BAILA-BATONGA MISSION

Of the Primitive Methodist Missionary Society

KASENGA

VIA KALOMO

N. RHODESIA.

REV. J. W. PRICE.

REV. H. S. GERRARD, M.B.

was it ever struck you that if we had native trouble here the first thing to go west would be the thatches of any buildings and everything beneath them?

I've had a love for a grass roof. It fits the landscape and it's cheap, while iron is ugly and marks us out strangers in the land. But other considerations must prevail.

We'll discuss Curry's matter as far as we have the facts, and take what steps seem justified in the way of advising you.

All regards

Yours sincerely,

I don't mean by the above that I feel you or the Committee need urging to sympathetic consideration of Curry's claim, not at all. I know you too well. There is probably a greater danger of harsh criticism in the Field than in your Committee.

Just in order to save the extra expense of an iron roof. We sold our old house at Kaszela, but never returned from it without a touch of anxiety that it would be just a black ruin. The thing so easily happens, and has so easily happened times innumerable. A spark from a wild fire, a moment's carelessness, a single incendiary match, and away goes everything. I don't know whether any blame attaches to Curry or not, but the fact that the thing so easily happens at all precludes any possibility of blaming anybody.

I'm awfully sorry about the whole affair. All the same it may draw attention to this question of housing, and I hope it may give some check to a sort of economy that is rather piffling when all is said. I can say that to you, because you know that I don't at all see a small one in my eyes.

In dealing with Curry just remember that to save C.M.C. money those men down in the Zambesi built a house of sun-dried brick and grass, with the consequent risk. The occasional has happened, and their bits of wedding presents, his books, their pictures, etc have all gone, many of them things that can't be replaced. And they are people who love good things. I've heard people argue against bringing their nice things out here. Others say they have left their books at home - and some use such are when they get back home. I've no patience with that attitude. We come out here for the best of our lives, and should have good homes and a civilised life as far as it is to be had. Accident - say an insurrection among the natives - might rob us of everything, but the risk should be run. Goods will deteriorate - but at least we have the uplift of them. We need all the uplift we can get in our homes, for there's very little outside them.